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SCRANTON, FEBRUARY 11, 1897.

All friends of Cuba are requested to read the interview with General Maxime Gomez printed on our first page. It has in every word the ring of truth and justice. Yet this is the man Spain calls an irresponsible adventurer!

### The Steel Rail War.

The dissolution of the steel rail pool. which is just announced, fulfills a prediction made on this page about the first of the year. The dissolution comes In large measure as an effect of the refusal of the Lackawanna Iron and Steel company, which in the past few months has put itself in strengthened position to control the eastern market. to submit to further duplicity on the part of certain other companies which, while enjoying the benefits of the pool, secretly cut prices. The dissolution of course means a trade war; but it will be a war in the open, and for this the local company is, we understand, fully prepared.

The collapse of restrictions on production will no doubt impart a tematesecond-rate plants and clear the field for an ultimate reorganization of the pool on a basis of business honesty and fairness. The fact that with restriction enforced, rails were held during a period of general trade depression at or near the \$28 rate, notwithstanding that the pool upheld at the same time a number of out-classed mills, will have exemplary force in leading to a new agreement when the dead wood shall have been cleaned out of the way. The rate may never again go as high as \$28. nor with the pensioners cut off would such a rate be necessary, but a flat rate of from \$22 to \$25 is quite sure, in our judgment, to be the outcome of another period of educational throatcutting.

For Scranton the main point in the present aspect of the rail trade is that it promises to afford the Lackawanna Iron and Steel company an opportunity to demonstrate to the interested public that if it has of late done less hornblowing than some other institutions it has by no means been asleep. Whatever the impending war may cost, we do not apprehend that the burden will fall in such a manner as seriously to injure the local mills.

If there were any dishonest men in the present state legislature the Losch gas, water and light bill would doubtless afford them an excellent club for the beating of boodle out of threatened corporations.

### McKinley's Policy Toward Cuba.

The New York Sun is inclined to belence on this point, that Major McKinley. when he shall become president, "may possibly not follow Cleveland's exam ple in respect to Cuba. He may not think that it is his duty to set himself up against congress as an obstructionist, or to execute with a high hand, at his pleasure, the purpose of his own presumption, heedless of the will, judgment, and purpose of a co-ordinate branch of the government, and heedless of a just and reasonable public demand. If this should be the case, there would, indeed, be ground both for Spanish solicitude and for Cuban hope. If, soon after Major McKinley shall become president, both houses of congress should again adopt the belligerency resolution which they adopted last year, or should adopt the independence resolution now before the senate, and should send one or the other of these resolutions to the president, there would at least be a possibility of a change in this government's relations toward the par-

ties at war in Cuba." For the Sun, this is a moderate state-Mr. McKinley was nominated, expressly pledged him to use this government's good offices to secure the independenc of Cuba; and also by the fact that among the gentlemen who have been named as his official advisers, as well as among those leading Republican senators and representatives who will help to shape his policy, there is, so far as we are informed, not one who does not sympathize deeply with the cause of the Cuban insurgents and feel that under certain contingencies such as now appear rapidly to be drawing near, it will be the duty of the United States, in the name of humanity and civilization, to put an end to Spanish sovereignty in North American waters.

We can readily understand why cautious and conservative men like Mr. McKinley and Mr. Sherman should wish to exhaust every peaceable and amicable resource of diplomacy before venturing upon a course with reference to Spain which might bring on the atrocities and the disturbing excitements of war. They do not fear a war forced upon the country through its performance of an imperious mora duty. Least of all, we imagine, would they fear a war with Spain, the nation without a friend. But war in any contingency is a price of progress so enormous that wise statesmanship justly seeks a cheaper bargain and makes the dearer only when deprived of an honorable alternative. That they may be unwilling to take reckless steps does not, in our judgment, mean that the incoming president and his secretary of state will view the barbarities inflicted by Spain on Cuba with either acquiescence or indifference. Their first pledge is to use their good offices for Cuba's relief. But if these should prove ineffectual, it does not follow that they would be inclined to refrain from adopting measures more effectual.

Secretary Olney informs the senate that King Oscar of Sweden feels humillated at the refusal of the senate to He certainly has not been treated with | secre.

The Scranton Tribune due consideration. But the fault is since all that is said and done in exelearly well founded. Before the secretary of state assented to this clause in the arbitration treaty and gave the text of that compact to the world, he support in the senate. The whole onus of the snub to Oscar rests, therefore, upon Mr. Olney. The latter is discovering at last the he is by no means the whole government.

> Does Senator Morgan suppose that and with votes to spare. during the next five years (the period of the present arbitration treaty's life) the United States will have a president who would select as arbiters, in a dispute with Great Britain, men who could not be trusted to uphold American interests fully as successfully as the United States senate? If so, he should lose no time in forming Willlam McKinley's acquaintance.

### For a New Inauguration Day.

The proposition is again being mooted to change the date for the inauguration of the president from March 4 to April 30, and in support of it many strong arguments are advanced. Among these are that the change would insure better weather; it would en- next public printer will be likely to inable congress to devote two additional short session, and it would permit that body to be in session when the president is inaugurated. The change could be made by a joint resolution of conporary stimulus to work and wages, gress; a constitutional amendment is and in this immediate locality such a not necessary, although one would be marble heart of a step-mother. stimulus will be most welcome. But in required to extend the term of the out a larger sense it will be likely to elimin- going executive from March 4 to April

> The 4th of March was an accidental others. selection of the first congress for in auguration date; and in early time the date made little importance anyhow, for two reasons. In the first place, the early inaugurations were unpretentious affairs that were not in the least inconvenienced by unpleasant weather; and secondly, the records show that at the beginning, the March fours of inauguration years were generally marked by much pleasanter weather than has obtained since. In 100 years there have been twenty-seven inauguration days. Twelve of them were pleasant; twelve were stormy. There is no record of the weather on the other three days. During the first fifty years there were thirteen inauguration days. Eight of them were pleasant, two were stormy, and the weather of three is not reported. During the last fifty years there have been fourteen inauguration days. Only four of them were pleasant; ten were stormy. "President Harrison," writes W. E.

Curtis, "while reviewing the procession on the day of his inauguration, and watching the soldiers and citizens tramping through the slush that was ankle deep upon the pavements, with their garments soaked with snow and rain, remarked to a gentleman standing near him: 'This storm will cost more lives than a battle.' And the mortality reported in the newspapers as due to exposure, not only among those who were engaged in the procession, but also among the spectators,

confirmed his opinion." The last really decent inauguration lay, speaking from a weather standpoint, was that of Lincoln's first term. which is described in the chronicles as 'clear and bright." Cleveland's first vas also a fair day-for March. But all the other inauguration days since 1861 have been most disagreeable; Linthreatening, with mud in the streets; Grant's first, "raw, dismal, rainy" and his second "the coldest ever known. thermometer 4 degrees below zero;" Hayes', "rainy;" Garfield's, "ground covered with snow, strong northwest wind:" Harrison's as described above, and Cleveland's second, "rain and snow in early morning, streets covered with slush."

An effort will be made during the next session to extend the term of President McKinley and change the dates of the meeting of congress as well as the date of the termination of the session. There will doubtless be finnicky objection arising from sheer much time and labor that are now taken up antagonism to what is indiscriminatement of the possibilities. It is rendered | ly called "constitutional tinkering;" the more worthy of belief by the fact but inasmuch as the change involves state and our own county commissioners that the St. Louis platform, upon which no disadvantages and promises several give it unqualified approval. distinct advantages, we imagine that public opinion will favor it.

> The proposition before the state senate to fine qualified non-voters, if it should pass, would fall more heavily on the poor than on the rich and would therefore be unfair. The way to punish neglect of the franchise is to visit upon the persistent offender a sentence of disfranchisement.

### Fake Election Contests.

At the beginning of the present congress a bill was introduced requiring each contestant of a seat as well as each holder of a seat in dispute to file a bond in the sum of \$10,000 as a guarantee that whoever was finally success ful, the public should not be mulcted for double salaries. It was designed to shut off mere grab contests where the contestant either goes into the contest as an independent speculation or comes to an understanding in advance with his opponent whereby each profits no matter how the contest ends,

We have been expecting to see notice that this wise measure had passed, but as yet no such notice has appeared On the contrary several expensive and as we believe, unnecessary contests have since been decided, with award of salaries to both victor and vanquished. and with bills of cost that certainly have not acted as deterrents of other contests. It is time that something were done to correct this abuse. Congress cannot afford to remain indifferent to the sentiment for just economy; and the economy called for in fake election contests certainly comes under this head.

The Brown bill to simplify the Baker ballot law by grouping the candidates according to the office is one of those self-evidently good and sensible bills which nearly always die young.

There would be good warrant for secreey in the senate's consideration of accept him as a permanent umpire. .-- arbitration treaty if the so-called

due consideration. But the fault is since all that is said and done in explacing in a European monarch's hands | tained by anybody having the requisof decisive power in disputes between ite curiosity, how much better it this country and Great Britain are would have been to have thrown the whole discussion open.

We are more than ever convinced, as the debate on the arbitration treaty should have been sure of an effective proceeds, in its amiable somblance of secrecy which deceives no one, that the real opposition in the senate to that instrument as amended by committee is oratorically loquacious but numerically small; and we still predict that the treaty will be ratified in ample time

What, after all, is Speaker Reed's offence, that members should murrour so? He insists that in these hard times congress shall not squander the people's money nor let down the bars to useless extravagance or downright jobbery. If this be "czarism," let the kickers kick.

Those who argue that criticism of the Harrisburg fire department involves insult to volunteer firemen are slightly twisted. The best way to compliment volunteer firemen is to purchase their whole time with good pay.

The story from Washington that Sen-

ator Quay will have the naming of the crease his correspondence for some months to the business required of the weeks to come. He should gun for the man who started it. Weyler says Spain has for Cuba the

> Mr. Cleveland informs a correspondst that he is "only waiting." So are

"over-generous heart of a mother."

Possibly that is why she exhibits the

### Just a Word or Two of Casual Mention

The bill recently introduced in the state enate by Senator Miller, of Berks, pro-iding for the disposition of costs in cases of misdemeanor and survey of the teace of mislemeanor and surery of the Jeace instituted before justices of the peace or aldermen, where insufficient evidence is produced to warrant the magistrate to hold the defendant to ball to appear at courf, and commonly known as "discharge cases" will, if it becomes a law, mark an important change for the better. The aumier of netty cases that are The number of petty cases that are ried daily throughout the county where he "defendant is discharged for want of vidence" and the county becomes liable for the costs incurred has grown to such planning proportions that immediate leg slation is necessary to protect the interest the taxpayer. When it is understood that the county pays on an average of 10 of these cases every month, the costs of which will average \$6 per case, it can be easily seen what it costs the county for these cases, the majority of which are trumped up, and the remainder so trivial

been instituted.
Under the present act if John Jones imatry, 25 cents; warrant, 50 cents; oaths, 10 cents each; subpoena, 25 cents; additional names on subpoena, 10 cents each; hearing case, 50 cents. The constable will present case, 50 cents. The constable will present the following bill: Executing warrant, \$1: serving subpoena, 50 cents; twenty miles travel, \$1. So that the injury to John Jones' cheek has cost the dear taxpayers of the county about 36. John Smith goes on his way rejoicing that he has been oln's second being "cold, cloudy and vindicated, the alderman and constable are ongratulating themselves on the way on the way at the goddess of justice because she was so blind she could not see the imprint of John Smith's hand on his right cheek. Senator Miller's bill will, in a large measure, put a stop to cases of this character as it provides that the prosecutor shall pay the costs of the case or give security to pay the same in five days, and in default thereof to be imprisoned for not less than ten nor more than sixty days. The result will be that those who feel that they have been done a "grievous inwill consider the matter carefully before they make a complaint and run the risk of having, in addition to the injury, costs to the amount of \$5 or \$5 placed upon them. To the taxpayers of this county it will mean a saving of about \$10,000 a year; to the commissioner's office it will save In recording and paying bills of this kind. Senator Miller's bill is endorsed by the county commissioners throughout the

Does this city need an active Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals? No one having witnessed an incident that resident avenue on the hill would answer the negative, for, while brutality to elpiess animals may sometimes be expected from ignorant people, it is high time that such a society be put in aggressive operation, when an apparently intelligent man displays a brutality that is about on a par with the acts of an American Indian when trying to amuse himself by torturing his captives in war. The incident which reflects the need of a Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals was witnessed by several of the neighbors of the chief actor, and indignation has been also destroyed. It is not true that the rife in that vicinity since. It appears that Andrews committee's expense account one afternoon a man was seen to emerge from the side door of his home with a small pug dog-that most insipid and harmless of all canines—under his arm. He advanced a siep or two down a stone sidewalk and raising the dog over his head, he threw him to the walk with such force that a duli thud was plainly heard many yards away, and that told as plainly as could a surgeon's examination of broken bones and internal injuries. The throw was sufficient to render the dog's legs useless and as, with piteous howis, he floundered about until death came, his master stood by looking on with a half joyous face, as though gloating over the agonies of the animal.

It's all in the eye. The man who can see about eight looks ahead is the man who is going to win. Micawbers never succeed. Manager George E. Davis is the man in mind. Nearly a decade ago he saw that Linden street, where the daily training then consisted of about six milk wag ons, was destined to be the heart of the of or adjacent streets. He proceeded to take advantage of the opportunity his rare foresight afforded, opened an amusement dace on a small scale, nurtured it by judi-ious business methods so that it might keep pace with the growth of the locality and now he has firmly established a first-class amusement place that is making more money for him than either of the other two immensely more expensivones. Manager Davis has a good eye.

Miss Floy Crowell's appearance here at the Frothingham brings to mind a good dory on her debut in this city six years story on her debut in this city six years ago. Unlike at present she had her own company. Her advance agent was a wooden-nutmen Yankee from some place down near New Haven. He had not been doing the best of work and Miss Crowell was much displeased at most of the arrangements he made. When she arrived in this city and displeased. --- really were secret. But in this city and discovered that he had

her billed for Music Hall she was very much wroth and the advance man was called back to give an accounting. He didn't seem to have any particular e ation to make or to care much for being called to task. His indifference addition thy provoked Miss Crowell and she discharged him on the spot. "Oh, I don care," remarked the discharged advan-man with a nonchalant air, "my othbusiness has grown to such an extent the lusiness has grown to such an extent that I thought of all lag up the theatrical turn anyhow. There's more money in mackerel than going before a show." To Miss Crowell's holy horror it was then disclosed to her that her business representative had divided his time between singing her praises and sounding the merits of barrelled sait mackerel. And this is no fish story, either. story, either.

story, either.

In an interview in the Pittsburg Leader State Bank Examiner P. O. Cochran is quoted as follows: "The banks of Schuylkill, Luzerne, Luckawanna and through the whole coal regions are the finest I have ever seen. I have examined trust concerns in New York and all over Penasylvania, and I must say that for a scientific system of accounting and expert clerical work, the barks of the coal regions deserve the laurel wreath. I was astonished. The biggest and soundest financial inside The biggest and soundest financial insti-tutions in the big cities are not bette enducted than are these coal country

General Manager Hallstead, Superintend-ent Bogart, Trainmaster Hallstead, the division superintendents and the officers of the Brotherhood's grievance committee. It makes very interesting local reading. The journal is one of the very best peridicals in its field.

Mrs. W. B. Duggan, agent of the Assoclated Charitles, wants it announced that there is no matrimonial agency connected with the board. Since the printing of the article in Wednesday's Tribune concerning her promised efforts to effect an hymencal alliance for Widower Sourtell, of the West Side, she has been fairly besieged personally and by letter by life partner-hunters from all over the city. Scranton's mayor has been honored with

an invitation to attend the fifth annual banquet of the Michigan club at Detroit, Feb. 22. The names of Russell A. Alger and Hazen S. Pingree appear in the list of invitation committeemen.

### STATE LEGISLATIVE TOPICS.

AD LEGISLATIVE TOPICS-A bill pending at Albany to regulate auc tion sales receives an unmerciful scoring from the New York Sun. The bill provides, for instance, that any competitor at an auction sale has a right to demand the name and address of a successful bidder or bidders at the sale. If the auctioneer or bidders at the sale. If the auctioneer refuses to give it, the sale is void, and if been instituted.

Under the present act if John Jones imagines that John Smith has done him an injury he goes before an alderman or justice and makes a complaint, the maginest issues a warrant for the arrest of John Smith and he is summoned to appear to answer the grave charge of having "slapped the sald John Jones twice upon in bidders at the sale. If the auctioneer refuses to give it, the sale is void, and if he gives an assumed name or address, he is guilty of a misdemeanor. If he enters a bidder's name falsely, he is guilty of forgery in the third degree, "It is apparent," says the Sun, "that the provisions would at once do away with the custom, common at all auction sales of paintings, books, bric-a-brac, and other similar articles, of the concealment of their identity by prospear to answer the grave charge of having "slapped the said John Jones twice upon the right check and by so doing did the deponent a bodily injury." After hearing the evidence the magistrate is of the opinion that the testimony is not sufficient to hold the defendant and he is discharged and the county must pay the costs incurred. The alderman's costs will be as follows: Information, 50 cents; docket enforced by the bill for violations of this section would result in endless litigation and would allow insincere an 'by' bidders to control the sales. A still more oppressive section is that relating to 'upset' prices, compelling all reserved sales to be advertised in detail as such. and in restricting auction sales of reserve good to such goods alone. Many of the sales now made at auction rooms are those made by order of executors who are anx ious to obtain the most that is possible out of what are often diminished estates. In onducting these sales it is for the inter est of the estate to hold the sales open for emergencies, such as bad weather, sparse attendance, and for other legitimate rea sons. The proposed law would prevent al this and leave the auctioneer no option but to go on with the sale and sacrifice the property. The bill, in fact, takes away from auctioneers all such discretion and freedom as is now necessary for the prop er conduct of their business," Inasmucl as such measures as this, when originat ing at another state capital, are usually in due time duplicated at Harrisburg, the foregoing remarks are worthy of recol

> Says the News-Dealer: "The members of the legislature from Luckawanna county are making a regular raid on th state treasury. Up to last Friday bills had been introduced by Senator Vaughar and Representatives Connell and Farr calling for appropriations of over \$300.00 from the treasury, and on Tuesday Rep esentative Mackey introduced a bill at propriating \$50,000 for an insane building at Scranton. What's the matter with the Luezrne delegation? Why are they not up and doing? Are they going to permit lit-tle Lackawanna county to get the lion share of the appropriations for this sec-tion of the state?" They who don't ask in politics seldom receive

Chief Clerk Smiley reports that the nur ber of bills read in place in the senathat were lost in the fire at the capito was 95. In addition there was a larg number which had been referred to th judiciary general and special committees Nine bills were lost of which there is n secord, and 12 that had been referred the committee on municipal affairs wer also destroyed. It is not true that the was burned and cannot be duplicated.

Senator Vaughan's free kindergarten bill is brief and to the point. It provides "that the school directors or controllers of the several school districts of this commonwealth may establish and maintain, out of the public school treasurs, free kindergartens for children between the ages of 3 and 6 years residing in their districts."

The Penrose dinner at Philadelph Feb. 25 will cost \$10 a plate. It is now said the Wanninaker crowd will retallate by giving a free dinner.

### TOLD BY THE STARS.

Daily Horescope Drawn by Ajacchus, The Tribune Astrologer. Astrolabe east: 3.18 a. m. for Thursday Feb. 11, 1897.

6 It will be apparent to a child born or his day that if all expectations are fulfilled concerning the smashup of the ste pool, our rural friends will no doubt t able to make steel rail-fence before th

The charity that will assist an anxious nan in procuring a wife seems to be wel A cold day for Mr. Cleveland-inaugur-

It is now time to dust the cobwebs off the 'new maple sugar' joke. Foems of Spring.

Wrote a beautiful thing Upon songs of the robin and thrush; But ye editor grim, With sulphuric vin Declared that the "slush."

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sortraits are given of President Sloan.

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NOTE-It gives our firm great pleasure in presenting these magnificent goods to our patrons at this time. Great care has been manifested in their selection, and we would advise an early visit, as we can-Dr. William De Lacy, son of Captain P. De Lacy, who went west some time ago and opened a dental office at Lehi Cly, Utah, has opened another at Deadwood, S. D. He has met success in the far west.

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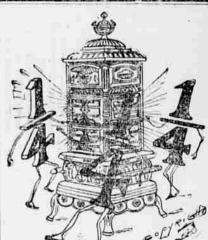
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